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# Hurricane forecasters expect normal Atlantic storm activity in 2001

## NOAA says five to seven hurricanes could threaten Atlantic and Gulf coastlines

### Courtesy of NOAA public affairs

Top hurricane experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the 2001 Atlantic hurricane season likely will have normal levels of activity, bringing fewer storms than the past three years. However, officials advised residents in Atlantic and Gulf Coast states to be prepared for storms, high winds and flooding throughout the season, which begins today.

At a news conference at the Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, D.C., NOAA officials said the absence of strong La Niña conditions this year will likely result in a number of storms, but relatively fewer compared to the last three seasons. In 2000, there were 14 named storms, of which eight became hurricanes.

A normal Atlantic hurricane season typically brings eight to 11 tropical storms, of which five to seven reach hurricane strength, with two to three classified as major. A major hurricane packs sustained winds greater than 110 mph and is classified as Category 3 or above on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. Seasons with normal hurricane activity aver-

age one to two land-falling hurricanes in the United States and one in the Caribbean.

"Although we expect an average level of activity this season, that is no cause to become complacent. With the possibility of five to seven hurricanes, residents in hurricane-prone areas can't afford to let their guard down," said Scott Gudes, NOAA's acting administrator. "Just one storm can dramatically change your life."

The news conference also marked the start of a nationwide Hurricane Awareness Week campaign led by NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and storm-vulnerable states to increase preparedness and safety among residents.

Mr. Gudes pointed to continuing improvements in technology and research that enabled forecasters to produce the 2001 outlook. "Better data from NOAA's weather satellites, better models, the latest supercomputers and an improved ability to monitor and understand global climate patterns are helping to create better long-term forecasts," Mr. Gudes said.

Prior to the news conference, FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh said, "As we look to another hurricane season

with an ever-growing population living in vulnerable coastal areas, our charge is clear. FEMA stands ready to provide both the leadership and the necessary technical assistance and guidance to communities as they assume responsibility for becoming more disaster resistant. Preventing the loss of life, minimizing the damage to property from hurricanes is a responsibility that is shared by all."

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Jack Kelly, director of NOAA's National Weather Service, said without a strong La Niña or El Niño, the key climate patterns guiding this year's expected activity are long-term patterns of tropical rainfall, air pressure and temperatures of the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

"Forecasters will monitor these climate patterns, especially leading up to the August - October peak period of the season," General Kelly said. "One of the most valuable forecast tools is the information gathered by NOAA and U.S. Air Force Reserve personnel who fly directly into these storms," General Kelly added, while flanked by NOAA's WP-3D, G-IV and the Air Force's WC-130-H hurricane hunter/research aircraft.

Max Mayfield, director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami, said hurricane-spawned disasters occur even in years with normal, or below-normal, levels of activity. Hurricanes Donna of 1960, David and Frederic of 1979, and Elena, Gloria and Juan of 1985 are reminders of the destruction that can occur during seasons with normal hurricane activity, he said. Hurricane Andrew of 1992, the costliest hurricane on record, developed during a season of below-normal hurricane activity, Mr. Mayfield added.

"Hurricane Donna killed 50 people in the United States, and Hurricane Andrew caused more than \$25 billion in damage in Florida," Mr. Mayfield said. "We don't want people to be caught off guard by a land-falling storm because the hurricane outlook calls for normal storm activity."

Mr. Mayfield also highlighted the dangers of inland flooding. "In 1999, Hurricane Floyd brought record flooding to the East Coast. Fifty of the 56 deaths during Hurricane Floyd were a direct result of inland flooding. That kind of threat remains with each approaching storm."

Mr. Mayfield added, "Storm surge

from hurricanes brings the greatest potential for loss of life. When an evacuation order is given, residents should treat it as a life or death matter."

Brig. Gen. Robert Duignan, deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, said the Air Force Reserve Command mission significantly narrows the coastline warning made by the National Hurricane Center. "This warning saves millions of dollars for businesses and, more importantly, saves the lives of citizens located in the storm's path," General Duignan said.

"Studies have shown the high accuracy data from our Air Force Reserve and NOAA aircraft have improved the forecast accuracy by about 25 percent. Aircrews in these storms also have detected sudden, dangerous changes in hurricane intensity and movement, which are currently very difficult to detect by satellite alone," added General Duignan. "The hurricane hunters are proud to serve as a vital link in the hurricane surveillance and warning network, alerting vulnerable populations."

The Atlantic hurricane season ends Nov. 30. As always, NOAA forecasters will issue an updated hurricane outlook in August.

# Be prepared for anything during a storm

### 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

You hear the weather reports on the news and keep updated on hurricane conditions by watching the weather channel, but do you really know what to do or what's going to happen if our area is threatened by a hurricane?

Two plans are implemented if a hurricane is headed toward Team Tyndall or the Bay County area; an aircraft evacuation plan and a disaster-preparedness plan. Base officials will also activate several support centers to ensure these plans are carried out smoothly and effectively. These centers include the battle staff, contingency support staff, aircraft hurricane evacuation staff and unit control centers.

In addition, a variety of media outlets are used to keep Team Tyndall members apprised and up-to-date on changes to hurricane conditions. Tyndall's media outlets include battle staff directives sent out for key base members to disseminate, e-mail messages, radio nets, commander's access channel notifications (channel 12 on base), sirens, public address loud speakers, signs at the gates and, if needed, door-to-door runners.

All Team Tyndall members should have a personal evacuation plan ready. The key to a smooth hurricane evacuation is being prepared and the easiest way to be prepared is by using a hurricane checklist.

A standard hurricane checklist should be a to-do list covering essential supplies and steps that need to be done prior to when the hurricane is

expected to be in the local area.

Preparing a home before evacuation can also decrease the damage. Home preparations should include boarding up windows and doors, storing items above the floor in case of flooding, shutting off utilities and securing items left outside. During hurricane season, have the plan, checklist and evacuation kit ready.

One of the main decisions many off-base Team Tyndall members must make is whether to evacuate. While evacuation orders for Team Tyndall members living on base comes from the installation commander, downtown officials will notify off-base residents of the need for evacuation. Team Tyndall members are advised to pay atten-

●Turn to PREPARE Page 2

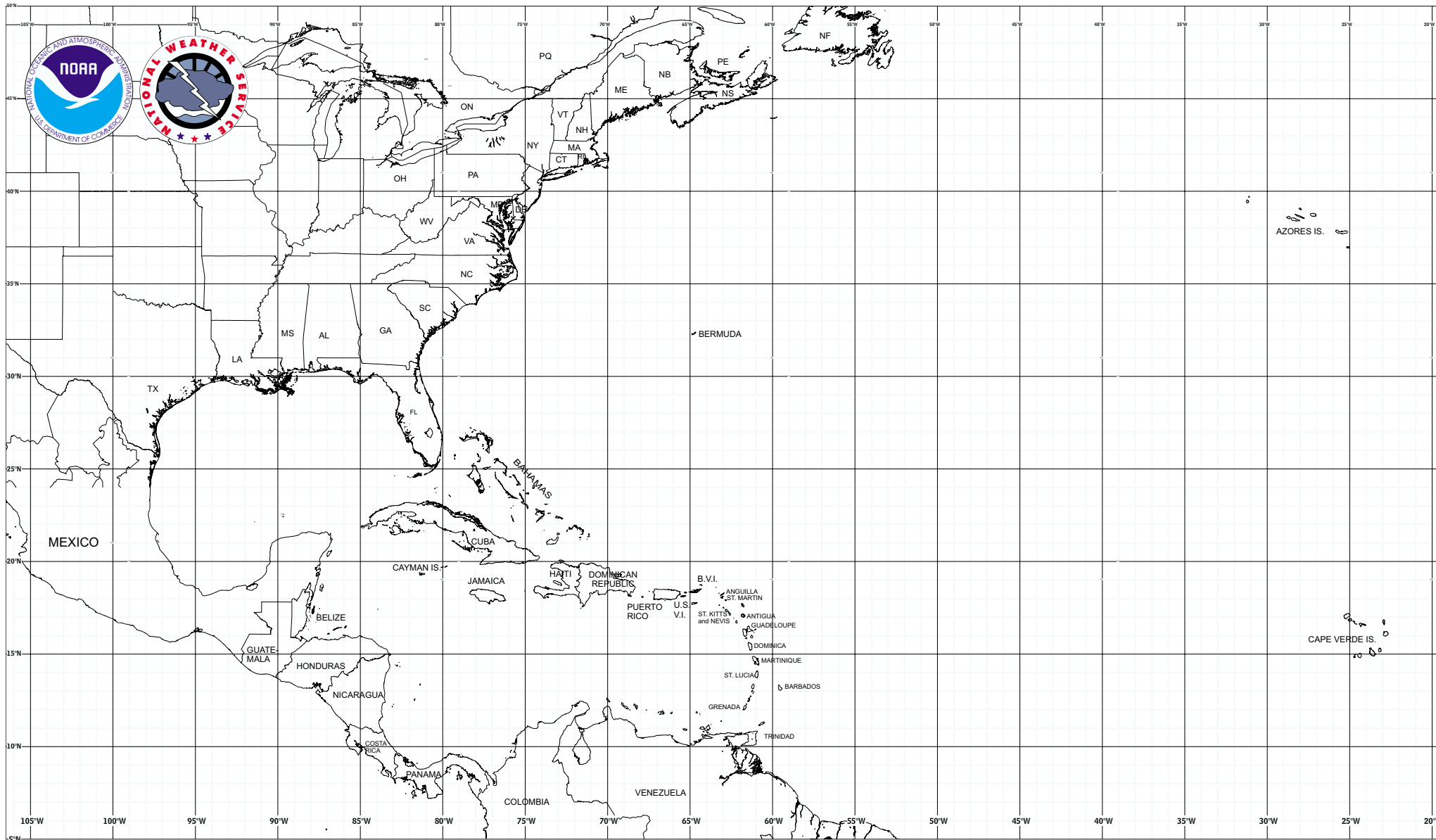


Courtesy photo

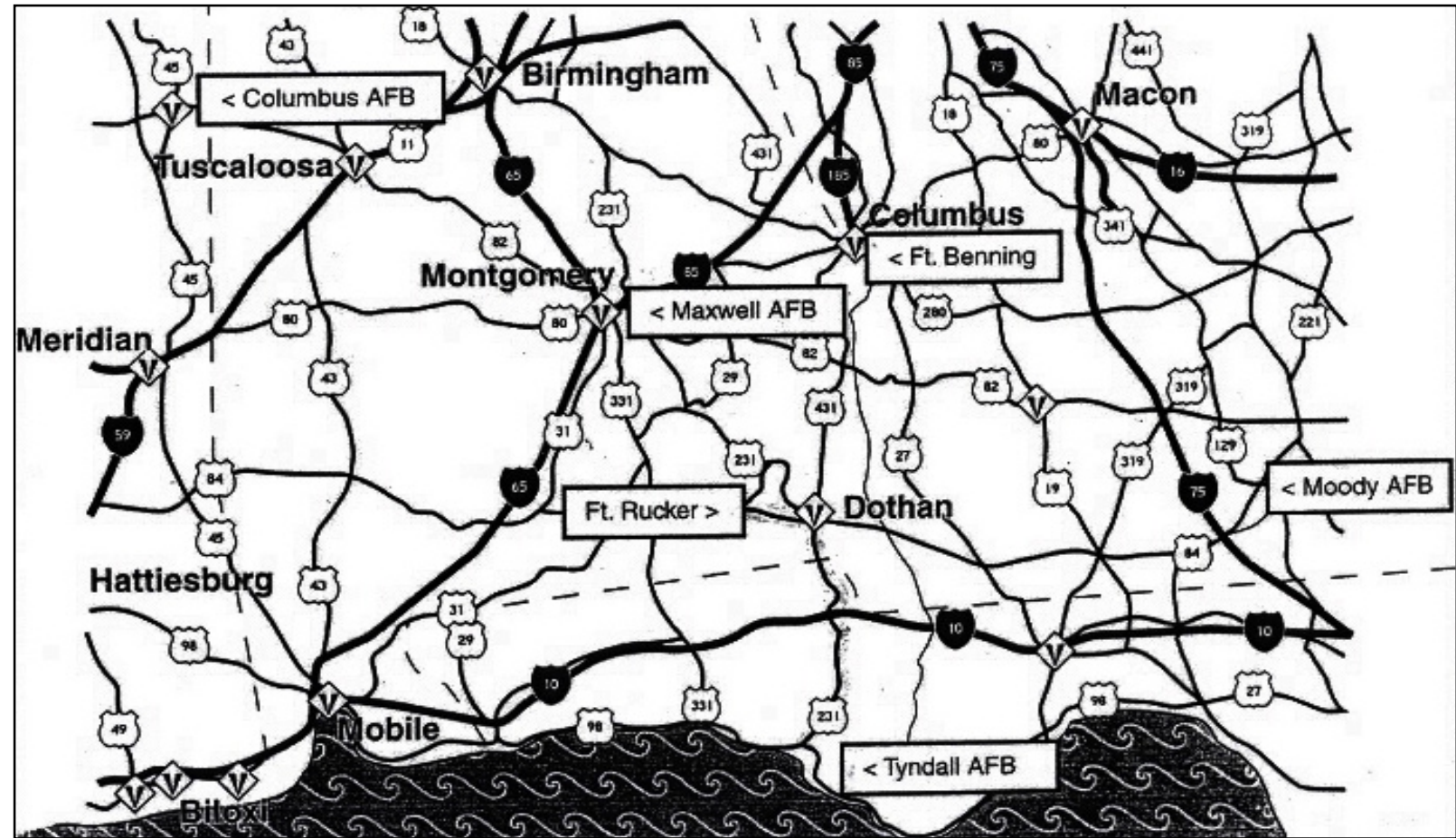
**Hurricane Floyd careens toward Florida on Sept. 14, 1999. Hurricane Floyd made landfall near Cape Fear, North Carolina at 6:30 a.m. on Sept. 16 as a Category 2 hurricane with estimated maximum winds near 90 knots.**

# Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart

## National Hurricane Center



### Tyndall Evacuation Map



●From PREPARE Page 1

tion to emergency information in order to meet evacuation times, know where they are going and how to get there and check with their unit commander for squadron-specific restrictions and guidance already established.

For safety and base security reasons, some base members may have to stay behind after an evacuation has been ordered in order to finish base preparation and provide base support. Once relocation is announced, members should return as soon as possible to begin the recovery process and assess damage to homes and belongings. Safety should be a concern when returning after a hurricane has occurred. It's important to watch out for animals rummaging for food, broken power, gas and water lines, structural damage, hazardous material spills and other dangerous situations.

Whether Team Tyndall members are evacuating or relocating back to the local area after a hurricane has made landfall, being prepared is the main ingredient. Know what the HURCON levels are and what to do; have a checklist or evacuation plan and follow through with it.



# What to do during, after a hurricane

## 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

With winds that can easily exceed 100 mph, hurricanes are among nature’s most violent storms. While the best advice is to be out of the area where the storm is predicted to make landfall, where should you go? What about if you’re caught by the storm and must “ride it out,” do you know what to do? Here are a few of the most commonly asked questions.

**Q: Where do I go if Tyndall has to evacuate?**

**A:** Tyndall’s primary safe haven for members is Fort Rucker, Ala. Fort Rucker is about one and one-half hour drive from Tyndall under normal driving conditions, however dense traffic could increase driving time up to five or more hours. Bus transportation will also be provided to the Fort Rucker area.

**Q: Where will I stay?**

**A:** Evacuees stay in Fort Rucker’s base gym or billeting, if available.

**Q: What if I have a pet?**

**A:** Pets are not allowed inside any shelter facilities at Fort Rucker; this includes the gym and billeting. In addition, the American Red Cross does not allow pets at their facilities. Members owning pets are advised to plan ahead and find a kennel to house their pets or a

motel that allows animals in rooms. The disaster preparedness flight, located in Building 909, has a listing of kennels in the Fort Rucker area.

**Q: Do I have to go to Fort Rucker?**

**A:** No, members may evacuate to other locations if they choose, but their commander must approve it. Additionally, evacuation allowances will be based on the safe haven locations. Should a member be unable to make it to Fort Rucker and have to go another area, they may report their whereabouts by notifying the Air Force Personnel Center, at (800) 435-9941, or Tyndall, at (800) 896-8806. However, determination of financial reimbursement will be based upon evacuation to Fort Rucker.

**Q: Do I need to bring anything with me to Fort Rucker?**

**A:** Yes. If you have to stay at the base gym, cots will be provided for you, but members should bring their own blankets, towels and personal hygiene products.

**Q: Will the base exchange facility be open when I arrive?**

**A:** Upon arrival at Fort Rucker, personnel will be informed of the base exchange and dining facility operating hours.

**Q: What do I do during a hurricane?**

**A:** Stay away from windows

and glassed areas. Listen for continuing weather bulletins and reports. Use the telephone for emergencies only. Follow official instructions. Be aware of the eye of the hurricane. A lull in winds doesn’t mean the storm is over. Remain indoors unless emergency repairs are necessary. Exercise caution outside. Winds may resume suddenly, in the opposite direction and with greater force. Be aware of rising water. If electric service is interrupted, note the time, then turn off the appliances, especially air conditioners. Do not disconnect refrigerators or freezers. In fact, set controls to their coldest settings and keep doors closed to preserve food as long as possible. Keep away from fallen wires, and if you see any, report their location. Presume all water is contaminated. Boil or use purification tablets until the water is declared safe.

**Q: What do I do after the hurricane?**

**A:** Listen for official word that the danger has passed. Watch for animals, such as snakes and rats, that may have relocated in your home. Inspect your home for damage. Check for gas leaks before lighting flames. Be alert for downed power lines and flooded areas. Stay out of affected areas; sightseeing hampers recovery and cleanup efforts.

# Know your evacuation travel entitlements

## Staff Sgt. Mona Ferrell 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

As hurricane season approaches, it’s important to know how Team Tyndall members and their families will be affected in the event of an evacuation.

The 325th Fighter Wing commander can order an evacuation either verbally or in writing. The type of evacuation order given will determine who will receive travel entitlements. For instance, if the commander orders that only Tyndall residents have to evacuate, only those individuals actually living on base will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during an evacuation.

The wing commander also has the authority to determine whether you can evacuate to a safe haven location of your choice or to a specific location, such as Fort Rucker, Ala. If an evacuation has been ordered, members affected will receive travel entitlements.

Entitlements will be determined based on the wing commander’s evacuation order. For privately owned vehicle travel, personnel affected will receive 34.5 cents per mile if they own the vehicle, to pay all the expenses of the vehicle.

A member without dependents can only be reimbursed for one vehicle. Individuals with dependents who also evacuate may be reimbursed for two vehicles, if used. Any tolls paid

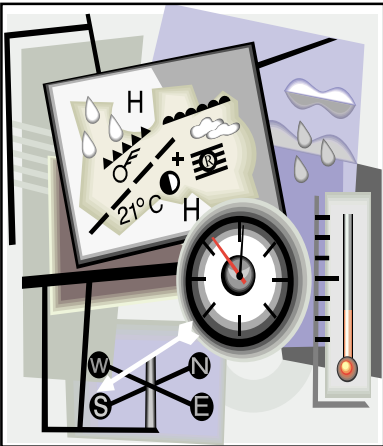
during the evacuation travel are reimbursable.

Individuals affected by a command-ordered evacuation will be required to submit lodging receipts, regardless of the amount. Members staying with family or friends will not be reimbursed for any payments made to them. Per-diem rates will vary depending on the location, but the minimum for commercial lodging is currently \$55 per day. Individuals will only be reimbursed for the per diem rate of the location they are authorized to evacuate to.

Receipts for meals will not be required. Members staying at an off-base location will be reimbursed for meals at a flat rate depending on the location. Currently the minimum commercial meal rate is \$30 per day and the maximum is a \$46 per day. If lodged on a military installation, military members will be reimbursed based on members’ availability of government dining facilities.

Although the government VISA card can be used during an evacuation, it is important to privately note that you are only authorized to use it for reimbursable travel entitlements, such as stated above. Automatic teller machine fees associated with the government credit card are reimbursable. However, reimbursements of ATM fees are limited by the entitled withdrawal amount. For example, if a member is entitled to withdraw \$500, any fees incurred by withdrawing more than that amount will be paid by the cardholder. Members evacuating are encouraged to keep an itinerary stating dates of travel. This will make filing a settlement voucher much easier.

More information about military travel regulations can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/> All of the above information can be found in the Joint Federal Travel Regulation Volume I and the Joint Travel Regulation Volume II.



## Categories

Hurricane conditions should not be confused with hurricane categories. Hurricanes are studied by the National Weather Service. Along with a name, they give it a category based on the Saffir-Simpson scale of 1 to 5. These categories give weather watchers an idea of how strong the hurricane winds will be and how high the storm surge will reach. They are:

**Category 1** - Winds 74 to 95 mph; storm surge 4 to 5 feet

**Category 2** - Winds 96 to 110 mph; storm surge 6 to 8 feet

**Category 3** - Winds 111 to 130 mph; storm surge 9 to 12 feet

**Category 4** - Winds 131 to 150 mph; storm surge 13 to 18 feet

**Category 5** - Winds more than 150 mph; storm surge greater than 18 feet.

## Radio stations, call letters and telephone numbers

**Bay County area:**

90.7	WKGC-FM	(850) 769-5241
92.5	WPAP-FM	(850) 769-1408
93.5	WEBZ	(850) 769-1408
94.5	WPPT-FM	(850) 234-8858
95.9	WRBA-FM	(850) 234-8858
98.5	WFSY-FM	(850) 769-1408
99.3	WPBH-FM	(850) 769-1408
103	WDRK-FM	(850) 234-8858
103.5	WMXP	(850) 234-8858
105	WAKT-FM	(850) 234-8858
106	WILN	(850) 233-6606
107.9	WLHR	(850) 234-8858
590	WDIZ-AM	(850) 769-1408
1480	WKGC-AM	(850) 769-5241

**Fort Rucker, Ala. area:**


99.7	WOOF-FM	(334) 792-1149
100.5	WXUS100	(334) 598-3374
102.5	WESP-FM	(334) 671-1025
106.7	WKMx	(334) 347-2278



# If you are advised to evacuate...

When an evacuation is advised, do the following:

- Notify unit of evacuation destination.
- Leave as soon as possible.
- Follow official instructions.
- Take the following supplies: road map to the evacuation area, changes of clothing, important papers, toilet and personal articles, furniture, baby articles, medications, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, candles and matches, dog tags and next-of-kin information, sleeping bags/ blankets and pillows in waterproof casings, special diet foods, spare portable radio and spare batteries, flashlight with spare batteries, lanterns, canned food, portable cooler, water, snacks, purse, wallet, money, rope, knife, tools, plastic bags and ties, deck of cards, manual can opener, cooking and eating utensils and portable camp stove and sheeting.
- Disconnect major appliances except the refrigerator and freezer. Turn their controls to the coldest setting and keep the door closed.
- Provide food and water for pets or board them in a kennel. Pets cannot be taken to a Red Cross or Fort Rucker shelter.
- Shut off water and gas at the main valve.
- Have two weeks' worth of prescription medicine on hand at all times.



# Make a list, check it twice

- Proper hurricane preparation begins long before the first glimpse of a storm on a weatherman's radar screen. Making up a checklist to be used prior to a hurricane's arrival can ensure both you and your family are safe and secure when a storm makes landfall. The list provided can be clipped out and placed in a safe place.

  - Check hurricane kit and replace missing items.
  - Listen for official weather reports and announcements on radio and television.
  - Announcements will also be posted on the base cable Channel 12.
  - Note the address of nearest emergency shelter.
  - Low-lying areas or mobile homes should be evacuated.
  - If pregnant or ill, call a doctor for advice.
  - Be prepared to turn off gas, water and electricity.
  - Fill tubs and containers with water.

Figure for one-half gallon of water per person per day.
- Keep car fueled and prepared to evacuate.
  - Moor boats securely. Use long lines and allow for rising water.
  - Secure objects that could become deadly missile hazards. Those objects include doors, shutters, gates, outdoor furniture, garden tools, sprinklers, hoses, children's toys, trash cans and loose branches.
  - Stock adequate supplies. Include a portable radio with spare batteries, flashlights with spare batteries, candles, lanterns, matches, hammer and nails, plywood (to cover broken windows), a handsaw and lumber, screwdrivers (slotted and Phillips), pliers, ax, hunting knife, rope, tape, plastic sheeting, dropcloths, waterproof bags, first-aid kit, containers of water, water purification tablets, insect repellent, canned food, juices, candy, gum, life jackets (if available), charcoal grill and charcoal, fire extinguisher, towels, plastic sheets (to protect furniture), buckets, mops and manual can opener.

# Tyndall's hurricane conditions

Hurricane conditions help alert people of a storm threat. Each condition is recommended by the weather flight at Tyndall and approved by Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins, 325th Fighter Wing commander. These conditions should drive Tyndall's units and personal responses. The lower the number, the more severe the condition that exists.

**HURCON 5.** This is an automatic condition issued to military installations in this state from here to Key West from June 1 to Nov. 30. The condition advises people to be ready at work and home for a hurricane. Actions call for members to review unit and personal checklists and check evacuation kits. Also, members should review supplies needed to protect buildings.

**HURCON 4.** A hurricane threatens Tyndall. Winds exceeding 50 knots/58 mph could arrive within 72 hours. Plans are activated and preparation actions start.

**HURCON 3.** Winds exceeding 50 knots/58 mph could be here in 48 hours. Aircraft and people could be evacuated. Preparation continues.

**HURCON 2.** Winds exceeding 50 knots/58mph are expected within 24 hours. Aircraft evacuation begins. As a general rule, you can expect evacuation and base closure based on storm conditions (Category 3 or higher) and proximity. Evacuation times for each of the housing areas will be announced. Final preparations to protect buildings and equipment are completed.

**HURCON 1.** Winds exceeding 50 knots/58 mph are expected to arrive within 12 hours. Evacuations initiated should be completed at Category 3 or higher. Only a handful of people are left behind in the alternate command post. Unit control centers will be closed as unit checklists are completed.

**All Clear.** Damage assessment of the base is done. Restoration of runway, radar, navigation aids, power, water treatment and structures begins. People return.

# Inland flooding major threat

When it comes to hurricanes, wind speeds do not tell the whole story. Hurricanes produce storm surges, tornadoes and often the most deadly of all — inland flooding.

While storm surge is always a potential threat, more people have died from inland flooding in the last 30 years. Intense rainfall is not directly related to the wind speed of tropical cyclones. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts occur from weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area.

The United States has a significant hurricane problem. More than 60percent of our nation's population live in coastal states from Maine to Texas, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

In 1994, Tropical Storm Alberto drifted over the Southeast United States and produced torrential rainfall. More than 21 inches of rain fell at Americus, Georgia. Thirty-three people drowned. Damages exceeded \$750 million.

In 1979, Tropical Storm Claudette brought 45 inches of rain to an area near Alvin, Texas, contributing to more than \$600 million in damages.

Hurricane Agnes in 1972 produced floods in the Northeast United States which contributed to 122 deaths and \$6.4 billion in damages. Long after the winds from Hurricane Diane (1955) subsided, the storm brought inland flooding to Pennsylvania, New York, and New England contributing to nearly 200 deaths and \$4.2 billion in damages.

So, the next time you hear hurricane — think inland flooding!

What can you do?

- Determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.
- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- Develop a flood emergency action plan with your community leaders.

For more information, contact the National Weather Service, Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.



Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, J. Jordan

**In 1999, Hurricane Floyd brought intense rains and record flooding to the Eastern U.S. Of the 56 people who perished, 50 drowned due to inland flooding. Inland flooding can be a major threat to communities hundreds of miles from the coast.**

# Contingency numbers activated

**Master Sgt. Rob Fuller**  
*325th Fighter Wing*  
*public affairs*

Who are Allison, Barry, Chantal, Dean and Erin? The starting five for the L.A. Lakers - not likely. They're names of this season's first five hurricanes and the best reasons in the world for initiating a contingency phone number here at Tyndall.

The number, (877)529-5540, was developed by a base working group as a major step toward disseminating critical information during contingencies such as hurricanes.

According to 325th Civil Engineer readiness flight, the idea for the number came following a flood that occurred in May 1999. After the flood, there was confusion when military and civilian personnel were to return to work. By making the contingency number available, the wing leadership can post the appropriate message and keep the base populace informed.

The telephone number has already been

activated and in the event of a contingency, such as a hurricane, will inform base personnel when to evacuate if necessary, or if aircraft evacuation has been ordered. The information line will also inform people if no evacuation is anticipated.

This number is not to be confused with other 1-800 numbers used during hurricane evacuations, officials said. Those numbers are dedicated to informing Tyndall employees when to return following an evacuation. This contingency number is used primarily to keep Tyndall personnel aware of a situation's current status.

The other numbers for use during hurricane evacuations are (800)896-8806 to contact Tyndall for the status of the base and return to duty information, and (800)435-9941 to contact the Air Force Personnel Center to report your location during the evacuation and receive further instructions.

The number has 32 lines available in an effort to handle many callers at the same time.